

RECOGNIZING GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY ON MARCH 25

**HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 191st anniversary of the independence of Greece. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, it gives me great pride to draw attention to our nation's strong Hellenic heritage and celebrate Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Following 400 years of Ottoman rule, in March 1821 Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army. Against overwhelmingly difficult odds, the Greeks arose victoriously. The following year, the Treaty of Constantinople established full independence for Greece.

The United States and Greece have enjoyed a long history of friendship since the early days of Greek independence. Today, we are close partners and allies. We share democratic ideals and common values, many of which were inspired by ancient Greek civilization. In fact, our republic is based on ideas about self-government set forth and practiced in Athens over 2,500 years ago.

Over time, many Greek citizens chose to bring their families to the United States, often to New York and surrounding areas, including Connecticut. They became proud American citizens, but preserved their history and culture to pass on to future generations.

I am proud to represent the thousands of Greek-Americans who live in northwest Connecticut. Their vibrant culture and important contributions have enriched our towns and cities throughout the state. I count many Greek-Americans as friends, and am pleased to join them in celebrating this important day. Zeto E Eleftheria!

HONORING MAJOR NENG LO

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life and service of the late Major Neng Lo. Major Lo's life was dedicated to his service in the United States Secret Army during the Vietnam War.

Neng Lo was born April 1, 1946, in Ban Houi Kinning, located in the Houi Kinning District of Muang Khoun in the Xieng Khouang Province of the Kingdom of Laos. He attended Muang Khoun Elementary School. While in the fifth grade, he was recruited to train and serve in the United States Secret Army. After completion of training, Neng Lo was incorporated into the Auto Defense Community stationed at Lima Site 15.

In 1964, at the age of 18, he was selected to transfer to the 2nd Company Infantry, 203rd Battalion, Special Guerrilla Units. This unit was a mobile unit that moved around the Plains of Jars to ambush and counter attack North Vietnamese Army, NVA, troops that oc-

cupied the areas. In 1966, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant and became the Commander of the 3rd Company, 203rd Battalion. In January 1967, Neng Lo's unit was sent to Na Khang at Lima Site 36 in the Sam Neua Province. His assignment on this mission was to capture Muang Heim, which had been invaded by the North Vietnamese.

In late March of 1968, Neng Lo was promoted to Lieutenant and joined Group Mobiles 21 counter attack on Phou Pha Thi, the mountain where United States radar systems were installed to guide U.S. airstrikes over North Vietnam. Phou Pha Thi had been captured by the NVA. During several unsuccessful attempts to recapture the site, Neng Lo's unit lost most of its members.

In December 1969, Neng Lo was promoted to Captain and was appointed Commander of the 203rd Battalion, Special Guerilla Units of the 21st Mobile Group of the United States Secret Army. During this assignment, La's Unit was ordered to control the Long Matt Ridge located south of the Plains of Jars. This was a springboard mission to capture the Plains of Jars from the NVA. His mission was to attack the North Vietnamese front line directly so other units could penetrate the NVA line to attack its reinforcement units and supplies.

In November 1970, Captain Lo heliported to Khang Kai Lima Site 4 to capture a strategic position. In December 1970, the NVA attacked Khang Kai with Russian armored tanks and 130 mm mortars, capturing the site. Lo was killed in action. In February 1971, the 201st Battalion recaptured Khan Kai Lima Site 4, but Captain Lo's body was never found.

After his death, Neng Lo was promoted to the rank of Major. Major Lo was married to Mrs. Pang Thao. The couple has two daughters: Mee Lo and Mao Lo. Neng Lo's family resides in Fresno, California.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in posthumously honoring Major Neng Lo for his heroic service to the United States of America, and extending deepest condolences to his family. His legacy serves as an example of excellence, and his contributions to our country will not be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
RODNEY A. ANDERSON

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dr. Rodney A. Anderson, a noted professor at California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) who passed away on March 7, 2012. Dr. Anderson served as a political science professor and mentor for hundreds of students. He characterized the best of what our nation's education system has to offer—he was wise, kind, and worked tirelessly to ensure that his students were successful.

Dr. Anderson grew up on his family's farm where he learned the value of hard work. Dr. Anderson attended Geneva High School, where he was an active member of the Future Farmers of America and excelled in extemporaneous speaking competitions. Upon graduating from high school in 1984, Dr. Anderson pursued a bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. After graduating with

high honors, he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in political science at the Ohio State University.

In 1996, Dr. Anderson joined the Fresno State Political Science Department and worked there until his passing. Throughout his career, he taught 200 students in five classes every semester. American politics, statistics, political behavior, and comparative politics were among the subjects Dr. Anderson taught.

Many of Dr. Anderson's students have gone on to graduate school or rewarding careers as attorneys, teachers, staff members for the California State Legislature and the United States Congress, or consultants. Henry Adams famously said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." As an alumnus of the Political Science Department at Fresno State, I know firsthand the importance of a dedicated teacher who serves as an academic guide, moral paradigm, and mentor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Dr. Rodney A. Anderson, a principled man and treasured member of the Fresno State community. Dr. Anderson's life was not only filled with personal milestones, but his dedication to his work and students was admirable.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,585,576,040,333.70. We've added \$4,958,698,991,420.62 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

INTRODUCING THE REPUBLIC OF  
GEORGIA DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2012

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Republic of Georgia Democracy Act of 2012. This bill sheds light into the deteriorating political situation in the Republic of Georgia and makes clear to the Georgian Government that maintaining democratic institutions and regular free, fair and competitive elections are key priorities for a strong relationship between our two countries.

This bill will help to reverse the suppression that has been intensifying by showing the Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili the cost of these anti-democratic actions. I know Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle share my growing concern over the violent suppression of parties, nongovernmental organizations and workers in Georgia. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and stand up for democracy in Georgia.